

Daily Plan ~ Day 5

Friday, June 11, 2004

Day Coordinator: Robert Moyer, Silver Lake Nature Center, Bristol, PA



Washington's Crossing, NJ to Bordentown Beach, Bordentown NJ

14 miles, Class I-Class I+ Riffles, last 5 miles are with the outgoing tide (high tide 11:56am)

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- 8:00 A.M. Breakfast, registration and check-in for campers and day-trippers at Washington's Crossing State Park, NJ. This is the site where George Washington's crossing of the Delaware from PA on Christmas night 1776 and the ensuing battle of Trenton reversed the momentum of the American Revolution.
- 8:30 A.M. Safety Talk at launch site
- 9:00 A.M. Launch from Washington Crossing State Park and paddle 7.5 miles to Stacy Park.
- 11:00 A.M. Arrive at Stacy Park in Trenton and join a history-making walk with the NJ Secretary of State contingent celebrating the history of the Delaware River and Native Americans in New Jersey. Walk to the New Jersey State Museum where we will be welcomed by NJ Secretary of State Regena L. Thomas and Trenton city officials.
- 12:00 P.M. Lunch and tour of the New Jersey State Museum.
- 1:00 P.M. Return to Stacy Park, launch and pass under the Trenton-Morrisville bridges. The Trenton Falls riffles mark the beginning of tidewater. Paddle 2+ miles to Marina.
- 2:30 P.M. Break at Mercer County Marina, Paddle 4 miles to takeout.
- 4:00 P.M. Takeout at Bordentown Beach. Campers return to Washington Crossing Park (no shower facilities).
- 6:30 P.M. Dinner at Washington Crossing State Park
- 8:00 P.M. Camp Fire: Program on the painting "George Washington Crossing the Delaware" by Emanuel Gottlieb Luetze.
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Many thanks to today's Sojourn Partners:

Silver Lake Nature Center
Bucks County Parks and Recreations
R.J. Toad Livery Service

***Delaware River Special Recognition
"Wild and Scenic Rivers Act"***

- Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River
- Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
- Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River

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Water height is highly relevant in the Delaware section of the river for two reasons:

1. High water can inundate the riverbanks and islands where flooded trees and vegetation can create what are known as "strainers". Strainers are very, very dangerous and can trap boats and people under water.
2. The quantity of water hazards such as large trees, lumber, logs, parts of man made objects such as docks float down the river at a faster rate making it difficult to see and/or navigate around. This floating debris can create a very dangerous situation.

The Sojourn's Policy for the lower Delaware River is – At water: 7-feet and above as measured at the Riegelsville Gauge – There will be No Sojourn "River" Trip – Alternate Land Activities will be offered.

(It is especially important to note that high water rescues endanger the people making the rescue. While Sojourn Safety personnel are well trained in rescue techniques, the person nearest to a boat or boater in trouble could be another Sojourner. High water makes the river more dangerous for everyone. The Sojourn will determine whether it is safe to paddle on any given Sojourn Day.)

ALTERNATE LAND ACTIVITY

After registration and breakfast, sojourners will visit Silver Lake Nature Center, a 253-acre "natural treasure" in the heart of the southern portion of Bucks County. It's a place where lush foliage, accessible wetlands and rich woodlands abound. Where rare and threatened animal and plant species like the Red Belly Turtle, Southern Leopard Frog, and the Maryland Meadow Beauty find refuge and flourish peacefully.

The Silver Lake Nature Center is part of the Bucks County Park System and is operated by the Department of Parks and Recreation. The center is located in the highly populated southern portion of Bucks County. The lake is the terminus of the Mill Creek, Queen Anne Creek and the Black Ditch Creek Watershed. Because it contains the best-protected Coastal Plain woodland remaining in the state, the Center is unique to Pennsylvania as well as Bucks County.

U. S. Aids to Navigation System (ATON)

Buoys and markers are the "traffic signals" that guide operators safely along some waterways. They also identify dangerous or controlled areas and give directions and information. As a recreational vessel operator you will need to know the lateral navigation markers and non-lateral markers of the U. S. Aids to Navigation System.

Lateral Markers

These navigation aids are used to mark the edges of safe water areas; for example, to direct travel within a channel. They use a combination of colors and numbers, which may be applied to buoys or permanently placed markers.



Red colors, red lights, and even numbers indicate the right side of the channel as a boater enters from the open sea or heads upstream.



Green colors, green lights and odd numbers indicate the left side of the channel as a boater proceeds from the open sea or heads upstream.



Red and green colors and/or lights indicate the preferred (primary) channel. If green is on top, the preferred channel is to the right; if red is on top, the preferred channel is to the left.



Lighted Buoys use the lateral marker shapes, colors and numbers discussed above; in addition, they have a matching colored light.



Nuns are cone-shaped buoys marked with red colors and even numbers.



Cans are cylindrical-shaped buoys marked with green colors and odd numbers.



Daymarks are permanently placed signs attached to structures such as posts in the water. Common daymarks are red triangles (equivalent to nuns) and green squares (equivalent to cans) and may also be lighted.